



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New Orleans District

Project Fact Sheet

Official Project Name

Ascension Parish Environmental Infrastructure

Location

Ascension Parish, LA

Purpose

The purpose of the project is to protect water resources and to increase potable water supply.

Background

The Atchafalaya Basin Project is one of several Main Stem component projects that resulted from the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) project established by Congress to control the floodwaters of the Mississippi River. In response to the Great Flood of 1927, the MR&T project directed the Corps of Engineers to build a system of levees, floodways, and channel and basin improvements along the banks of the entire Mississippi River so that excessive flows reach the Gulf of Mexico with minimal damage to communities along the river. These Main Stem components include Mississippi River Levees, Channel Improvement, South Bank Arkansas and South Bank Red River Levees, the Atchafalaya Basin, Atchafalaya Basin Floodway System, Old River, and others.

The MR&T legislation mandates that the system safely carry 3 million cubic feet per second (cfs) of water through the basin from the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico. Where it meets the Old River, the Mississippi River can accommodate only half that amount safely, or 1.5 million cfs. To satisfy the MR&T requirement, the remaining water is diverted through a series of control structures, the Atchafalaya River and the Morganza and West Atchafalaya Floodways.

Authority

Section 219, WRDA 92

Progress to Date

Developing planning and design documents for priority projects for the parish. Designing Phase I of a comprehensive wastewater treatment facility.